

REPORT OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
FRANCIS E. FRONCZAK

—ON HIS—

**ACTIVITIES
IN EUROPE**



AS MEMBER OF THE POLISH NATIONAL
COMMITTEE,

OFFICER IN THE MEDICAL CORPS OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY

—AND—

MEDICAL COUNSELLOR OF THE AMERICAN
RED CROSS COMMISSION TO POLAND

FEBRUARY, 1918, TO JUNE, 1919



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The Polish National Committee, composed of members representing all sections of Poland, and the Polish immigration in the United States, also all political parties, with the exception of the Extreme Left, was organized August 15, 1917, at Lausanne, Switzerland, and liquidated August 15, 1919, at Paris.

In due time, the Committee will publish a detailed report of such of their activities as are appropriate for general information at the present time.

A synopsis of these activities is submitted herewith:

Immediately after organization, it was officially recognized as the official organization representing the Polish people. A number of governments were prompt in according this recognition, and particularly was this the case with France, September 20, 1917; England, October 15, 1917; Italy, October 30, 1917; and the United States on December 1, 1917, and likewise with the various Polish organizations throughout the world, notably those in North and South America and Siberia.

The work of this committee was as varied as it was responsible. It assumed consular duties especially in France, England and Italy, acted in an advisory capacity, extended aid to refugees and emigrants and performed other functions of relative character.

It assumed charge of the Polish army in France early in 1918, designated General Joseph Haller as its commander-in-chief, October 4, 1918, and received the acknowledgment that the Allied and Associated powers recognized this Polish army as being co-Allied and co-belligerent.

Its momentous achievement was that through its activities on June 3, 1918, the governments of France, England and Italy declared that the "Creation of a united and independent Polish state with free access to the sea constitutes one of the conditions of solid and just peace and of the rule of right in Europe."

Furthermore, the Polish National Committee was directed by the Peace Conference in Paris to name the two delegates to represent Poland and to sit with and participate in the Peace Conference, and two of its members—Roman Dmowski, Chairman of the Committee, and Ignace J. Paderewski—were so selected and accredited. During this interval the committee received a notification from many governments of their official recognition of Poland as a nation.

The Polish National Committee defined and decided on the territorial program of Poland, looked after the interests of Poland at the Peace Conference, and through its endeavors raised an army of 100,000 men, coming from all corners of the earth, and which being sent from France to Poland is at present fighting for the rightful frontiers of Poland. But, more than this, the army is protecting the country from her interior enemies.

As to my own activities, I became a member of the Polish National Committee in February, 1918, and was approved as such by the government of the United States, to represent the Polish immigration in this country. The approval was signed by the Secretary of State, Hon. Robert S. Lansing. On March 28th, I became Major in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army and immediately was ordered by the War Department to proceed to France and to report in person to the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, General Pershing, to be assigned by him to the Polish National Committee at Paris. Arriving there, I at once was selected by the Committee and became Director of the Department of Public Welfare, acting as such from May 23, 1918, to February 20, 1919, and as such, I made a special report in Polish of 86 pages on the activities of the department, which has been printed in France, and a resume of which has been translated into French and English for the benefit of the French and the United States Departments of War, and for the benefit and guidance of the French. Several hundred copies have been sent to the National Polish Department in Chicago, the great representative of Polish organizations in America, for distribution to Polish citizen committees in the various cities, to show the Poles of America how well

part of the money they contributed has been spent, and what their representative was doing while in France.

As head of the Department of Public Welfare, I organized numerous bureaus:

A Bureau of Administration, which had charge of the correspondence and claims and kept in touch with other departments of the Polish National Committee and Allied organizations, also had charge of the several organized warehouses.

The Bureau of Moral and Physical Welfare, which included first aid stations and dispensaries, provided physicians, druggists, orderlies and nurses, compiled lists of killed, sick and injured, lists of "reformed" and the convalescents, and also gave aid to the sick and wounded who were in need.

As Director of the Department of Public Welfare, I also organized a number of savings associations, rest-houses, foyers, clubs for soldiers and officers, provided entertainments, games, sports, concerts, community singing, moving pictures, and conducted and arranged excursions, looked after the distribution of gifts to soldiers and prisoners of war; rendered aid to Polish prisoners of war taken from the Central armies by the various Allied powers, and especially by French, English, Italian and the United States armies, and, finally, gave help to refugees.

In this Department, I created also the Bureau of Propaganda and Education, which included the organization of school courses and lectures, the issuing of publications, planning of libraries and reading rooms in all camps of the Polish army, providing newspapers, magazines, illustrations, and organized various patriotic meetings, soirees, national celebrations, musicales, and so on.

It is impossible in this too short report to give all my activities in France, and in Paris especially, as the same can be found in my preliminary printed Polish report, which, no doubt, the National Polish Department has placed in your hands.

In this department we have received and sent tens of thousands of letters, telegrams and packages, made a great number of reclamations as to the pay of soldiers,

investigated the non-receipt of premiums, searched for lost or stolen packages, loss of monies, letters and packages sent to soldiers by relatives, especially from the United States, organized warehouses, and, during the several months, bought over two million francs worth of goods, which were sent to various camps, canteens, hospitals and rest-houses.

As Director of the Department of Public Welfare, I have been especially aided by the National Polish Department of America, by the Polish White Cross, the Polish Military Commission, the American Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus, and the American Library Association.

In the Bureau of Moral Welfare, co-operating with me were the 22 chaplains of the Polish Army, 19 of whom were from the United States. Later, the chaplains were transferred under the jurisdiction of the Commander-in-Chief. The work of the chaplains has been of extreme importance and they have rendered valuable, noble and lasting service to the army.

The Bureau of Sanitation in this Department was performing work similar to that performed by the various Red Cross organizations, and the Department of Public Welfare was most closely associated with the Department of Health of the Polish army, with the French Ministry of Health and army, with the American, Canadian and English Red Cross, the Polish White Cross of America, and the association for the aid of sick and wounded Polish soldiers, an organization which was organized in Paris and which has rendered very valuable service to the injured and the sick, who were distributed in the various hospitals in France. I was one of the directors of this association.

When I arrived in France in the early part of May, 1918, and was detailed to look after the needs and welfare of the Polish army there, there was an absolute lack of infirmaries and dispensaries, a total lack of surgical instruments and drugs, and it was necessary for me to provide these either by obtaining same by purchase in France and England, or by loan from the American Red Cross. I also obtained some of the necessary supplies after cabling and writing to the United States.

I visited every Polish camp in France, of which there were 28; as a matter of fact, I am the only person who has actually visited all the Polish army camps in France. I do not know of, nor have I heard of, any other person who has been in all these camps, and I investigated all their conditions, bringing in relief and supplying their needs and encouraging the men.

I have repeatedly visited the sick and injured in the various hospitals throughout all France, which were distributed from the English Channel to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the Atlantic Ocean, on the west, to almost the fighting lines, in the east, separating and segregating the unfortunates, and, if necessary, sending to proper sanitarium those suffering from tuberculosis, venereal and other diseases.

Speaking of venereal diseases, the Polish army has had the lowest number of cases in proportion to the number of men. While other armies had as high as ninety-six people per thousand infected with active venereal diseases, the Polish army had only twenty-seven per thousand.

During my administration of the Department of Public Welfare, I co-operated with the 51 physicians in the Polish army, the 14 druggists, 5 dentists and 1 veterinarian, in most cases obtaining for them all of their supplies.

My printed Polish report on pages 12, 13 and 14 shows the location of these professional men at the time I issued that report.

I superintended the licensing and permission to act as nurses of the 42 Polish nurses who were sent to France by the Polish White Cross, prepared for this work in America under the surveillance and patronage of Mme. Helena Paderewska.

I placed our nurses in the Polish Hospital at Rambouillet, founded by Count Nicolas Polocki, as well as in hospitals where there was a great number of our patients. Hence, there were nurses in three or four hospitals in Paris, in Neuilly, in hospitals and sanitarium in Quintin, Rennes, Falaise, Coutances, LePerray, Marseilles, Nice, Solesmes, Sille-le-Guillaume, Plouguerneval and other locations. I visited no less than 160 localities scattered throughout France where were located our

camp, training schools, officers' schools, leave-of-absence areas, soldiers' homes, hospitals, sanitarium, etc., and I have repeatedly traveled the entire length and breadth of France, doing most of the traveling at night, with no sleeping accommodations, sitting all night on a satchel in a corridor or platform, or crowded in a vile room. Sleeping cars were unknown or too few in number in France during this period of the war for me to take advantage of them.

I had, up to the time of leaving for Poland, collected 269 names of men who were killed in battle, died or were lost, and notified the relatives of same; also collected 1,100 names of those injured.

In table No. 6 of my special report, I give the names of all who have been killed, died or were lost in France up to the date of issue of report, and table No. 7 of the same report shows the list of invalids.

During my administration and through the Department of Public Welfare over 300,000 francs were saved by officers and men and invested in bonds or deposited in postal savings banks, and this notwithstanding the pay of private soldiers, which was 25 centimes per day.

I especially want to mention our leave-of-absence areas which were situated in various parts of France—on the shores of the English Channel, and on the Atlantic Ocean, on the Mediterranean Sea, and in the mountains in Savoy and Haute Pyrenees; in the highlands of France and on the banks of some of the beautiful rivers of France.

We also had homes for soldiers in Paris, and I enumerate the places where we had soldiers' and officers' homes, rest camps and canteens on page 25 of my printed Polish report.

Through the Department of Public Welfare, 2,500,000 francs were spent for the maintenance of soldiers on leave-of-absence, the money coming from the Polish National Department of America, the Polish Falcons Alliance, the Polish White Cross, the French Ministry of War and private individuals.

A special officers' club was maintained in Paris, where officers were given for a nominal fee a room and meals, and where they had opportunity for decent recreation,

and were able to meet fellow officers, coming to the general headquarters for instructions, to make reports, or transact necessary military business in the capital.

The Department has distributed over 115,000 packages of Easter and Christmas gifts, which were sent from America, or bought or donated in France. Not only were these packages distributed to soldiers, but also to prisoners of war and refugees. Some were sent as far as Murmansk, in the north, some to Siberia, in the far east, and others to Morocco, in Africa, in the south; for the Department of Public Welfare also looked after the many refugees from Alsace and Lorraine, Westphalia and the Rhine provinces and the unfortunate prisoners kept in separate detention camps.

Hundreds and hundreds of men, women and children, some with infants in arms, and, others gray-haired, old men, with all their worldly possessions on their backs, coming to Paris with absolutely no means of support, were given a bath, clean underwear, necessary food and financial aid until they were able to be sent either to their destination, to homes for refugees or obtained employment.

The Department of Public Welfare has been greatly aided in this work by Mme. Marie, the granddaughter of our greatest poet, Adam Mickiewicz, and her venerable father, Wladyslaw Mickiewicz.

Great services have been rendered also by Countess Marie Zamoyski, the daughter of General Wladyslaw Zamoyski, the owner of Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains, and the owner of Kornik near Poznan.

In the Department's Bureau of Propaganda and Education, we opened schools for the illiterate, high courses for those prepared, and taught not only the A-B-C's, and the rudiments of mathematics, but gave lectures through organization of speakers in advanced courses, such as algebra, geometry, botany, geography, history and literature of Poland, of France and the United States, have issued a great number of brochures, pamphlets and books especially relating to the use and dangers of alcohol and the abuse of sexual life. A little booklet entitled, "Wracaj zdrow do Kraju!" (return healthy to your country) was distributed by thousands of copies, and has been considered a most valuable aid in lowering the

venereal disease rate to as low a percentage as the one I have mentioned; namely, 27 per thousand men. This booklet, at the request of the present government, with my authorization, has been reprinted for general distribution in Poland.

The American Library Association, at my personal request, donated 2,000 volumes of English books which I have placed in camps, together with the thousands of Polish books sent by Poles in the United States, and, though these unfortunately arrived very late, in 1918, they were distributed in camps, leave areas and hospitals. Before the arrival of these books from America, I bought all the Polish books I could get my hands on from the private and public libraries and book stores in France and Switzerland. I was unable to obtain any from Poland, as delivery was impossible. In this way, for the moral and mental advancement of the soldier, was spent some of the money sent by the National Polish Department to France and the National Committee. We distributed a great number of newspapers sent from America.

It was due in great measure to my initiative that our boys had fitting celebrations at Christmas and Easter holidays, and on the 3rd of May, and the anniversary day of Unia Lubelska. On the 12th day of September, we had a special celebration on the victory of John III Sobieski at Vienna in 1683 over the Turks, and when General Haller became Commander-in-Chief of the Polish army in France, on October 6, 1918, the Department of Public Welfare had that even celebrated in every camp. On all these occasions to the spiritual and mental entertainment were added smokes and sweets and dainties. The reports sent by me from France at that time were published in full in our Polish American press.

Neither have I forgotten the heroes who fell in 1830 and 1863, and both celebrations were held—one in November and the other in January. It was with the greatest gratification and with emotion that brought tears into my eyes that I read the reports from many camps after these celebrations, and especially the one relating to Christmas of 1918. I refer all those interested in this to my printed Polish report to the Polish National Com-

mitted at Paris, February 20, 1919, pages 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37.

We distributed over twenty millions of cigarettes, hundreds of thousands of pieces of chocolate, chewing gum, quantities of biscuits and canned goods, provided baseballs, footballs, basketballs, lawn tennis, croquet outfits and distributed thousands and thousands of Polish and American song books containing patriotic and folk songs and camp ditties.

My visits to our soldiers' camps gave me great pleasure, even if they were at the sacrifice of comfort. Many a night I did not sleep in a bed, being billeted where there was but the corner of a railroad car, or a bunk, in a tent or barracks, or primitive country lodging house.

No words of mine are strong enough to express my pride and emotion. The energy, the spirit and the good work of the Polish army in France and especially of the boys who came from the United States was inspiring and a revelation of their love for their's and their forefathers' native land. They gave all they had for the cause, and even under most distressing and trying circumstances, were loyal and equal to the indications or demands. It is true that from time to time there were misunderstandings, and it cannot be denied that there were complaints and dissatisfaction at times, but in a great number of cases, it was due to circumstances and the rapidity with which the army was recruited and organized, to our unpreparedness, and to lack of funds and material.

When I arrived in May of 1918, I had a great number of complaints from "boys" that they were not treated properly, that they did not receive promotions, nor pay, nor premiums. I immediately took the matter up with the Polish National Committee, the Franco-Polish mission, and the French War Department, and by June over 450 promotions to our boys from the United States, and hundreds of thousands of francs for back pay, were made. Some of the men at the time I left the army for Poland, in February, 1919, were holding ranks, even that of a Major. I loved the boys and the boys reciprocated. They loved me, as the stacks of letters on file at the Polish National Committee's offices in Paris certify, for the "boys" understood that in the Department of Public

Welfare, of which I was director, they had a true, real friend, one who was interested in their welfare, and that everything possible that could be done under the circumstances was done to aid them and would be.

Through the Department of Public Welfare, of which I was the head, thousands upon thousands of francs have been paid to the boys for their services, their premium collected and otherwise. Wills and official papers were drawn and business of all kinds transacted for them.

Large sums of money were sent to me from America, especially by the Polish National Department, the Polish Falcons Alliance and the White Cross, but in not a single instance was a check or voucher cashed by me, personally; each check or voucher was endorsed and transferred to the treasurer of the Polish National Committee, ordinate Maurica Zamoyski—and repeatedly I accompanied him to the several banks in Paris and saw that he collected sums of money which were sent in my name, and the monies, sometimes amounting to millions of francs, were deposited for the benefit of the object intended in the name of M. Zamoyski.

I repeat and want to emphasize that not a single penny or centime was ever cashed by me personally or retained in my possession, but was immediately transferred to the treasurer.

As Director of Public Welfare, I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for the co-operation given me by the American, the English and the Canadian Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus, the American Library Association; also by the United States, English and Italian embassies and the various ministries of France, England and Italy, and to the many highest officials of the different armies, notably the French, American, English and Italian, whom I frequently met in the discharge of my responsibilities.

When I was depressed, and I often had occasion to be, and did not know where I would receive any help for the "boys," and this would happen when the needs were greatest, when everything looked dark and the going was hard, many of these organizations came to my assistance not only with good counsel and encouragement, but with material and substantial aid.

I recall an occasion when I received an urgent telegram from Italy, stating that about 38,000 Polish prisoners of war taken by the Italians, were detained in prison camps, and almost destitute of underwear and clothing of any kind, and those who had any, were really dilapidated and in rags and none had received a change of underwear for many weeks. I thereupon bought all the underwear I could possibly find in Paris and vicinity, and when all the money at my disposal and the monies I went out and borrowed from various sources for the purpose were expended, I went to friends in the American Red Cross for help, and, within a few days, no less than 60,000 pieces of underwear, sox, shirts, handkerchiefs and other necessary soldiers' apparel were promptly supplied and delivered by that organization.

We owe the American Red Cross for the help given the Polish army in France, and the Polish refugees and prisoners of war, a debt of gratitude that I hope will ever be remembered. The documents, receipt books and reports of my management of the Department of Public Welfare as to monies received and monies expended—in fact as to everything connected with the Department of Public Welfare—can be found in the archives of the Polish National Committee, and, as they are public records, every document, paper and statement is open to inspection and every one and any one is welcome to investigate, examine and scrutinize them for verification as a matter of interest, or for any reason whatsoever.

The third chapter of my activities in Europe is the one relating to my becoming a member of the American Red Cross Commission to Poland, with which I was associated from the middle of February until June, 1919.

I have visited the officials of the American Red Cross in Paris, cabled and written many messages, reports and communications between November, 1918, and February, 1919, to various individuals, organizations and authorities, before the matter of sending an American Red Cross Commission to Poland was finally realized. To Colonel Olds of Minnesota, the European Commissioner of the American Red Cross, whom I first met in July, 1918, Poland owes an ever to be remembered debt of gratitude. It was he who repeatedly aided me personally in getting

supplies for the Polish army in France, and it was his interest and co-operation and vision that brought aid to Poland when she was in sore distress. Colonel Burlingame of Philadelphia, Major Knowlton Mixer of Buffalo, Major Garvin of Raybrook, Major Baer of Milwaukee and Lt. Col. Walter C. Bailey of Boston—God bless them all—are also to be ever remembered with gratitude.

I departed for Poland on this particular work by the way of Switzerland, Lichtenstein, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

I have been through Poland from the Carpathian mountains to the Baltic sea, from the River Oder to Pripet. I have been in Poznanskic, in Eastern Galicia, now Little Poland, in Kasubia, in Lithuania, in White Ruthenia. I studied the Polish conditions, both sanitary and material, most thoroughly, and my reports to the American Red Cross and others were some of the instrumentalities by which the great aid we received was obtained.

I have made addresses under the auspices of the American Red Cross, the United States Relief Commission, the Polish government and its ministries on sanitation and the prevention of disease in 42 different communities.

I saw thousands and thousands of people sick with typhus, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, trachoma, famine oedema and all kinds of chronic conditions and made full reports of those and saw the desired aid given as far as it was possible under the existing conditions.

I have seen great numbers of desolate cities, towns and villages, and especially in the eastern part of Poland, which has been turned into a wilderness by fire and sword. I have not only visited the hospitals, but was able to provide many of them with needed instruments and hospital supplies. For they were destitute of everything—that included the most necessary drugs, dressings, bedding, bed clothes, even cooking utensils and fuel.

After the Armistice was signed, I called the attention of the Polish National Department of America, the U. S. Department of War and the American Red Cross at Washington, to the existing conditions, detailing the great desolation and needs of Poland.

And while in Paris, day after day, I conferred with the American Red Cross authorities there, urging upon them to send a commission to Poland, and learn the true state of affairs for themselves. I repeatedly visited the American Red Cross headquarters and pointed out the sections where material aid was needed and what could and should be done to alleviate the conditions. Copies of these requests, pleadings and reports are now on file in Warsaw, Paris, Washington and Chicago.

I regret the loss of several cases, which I have sent from Europe, containing valuable books, maps, documents, and which I have not as yet been able to trace, though they have been searched for for several months. They contain valuable material not only for future reports, but for historical purposes.

While in Poland, I had conferences with the chief of the state, General Pilsudski, had daily talks with the Premier of Poland, Paderewski, with the ministers of Health, War, Commerce and Industry, with the ministers of Labor, Transportation, Posts and Telegraph and other ministries. I conferred with and appeared before many organizations, and aided in organizing associations in various parts of Poland to alleviate and better conditions and reduce morbidity and mortality.

I have not used the American Red Cross or any organization, or my influence either personal or official, for any single individual, nor considered race, creed or condition, but have urged and advised the Red Cross and all other organizations to aid and relieve the distress and promote the welfare of the entire country; to consider all citizens of Poland, no matter whether Jew or Gentile, no matter whether their language was Polish, Ruthenian or Lithuanian, whether they were from the north, south, east or west of Poland. I have pleased and worked for the whole, considered all as citizens of one country—the Republic of Poland—that all were to be helped equally without favoritism or fear.

I invite inquiry, court criticism and challenge any one to point out a single act, the purchase of a single article, or aided in purchasing a single article, or expended a single dollar wherein I was interested directly or indirectly, or wherein I gained or had remuneration.

whether directly or indirectly. I can point with a justifiable pride to my acts and truthfully say I have been inspired to take greater care than if matters were my own. It has been a trust, and I have executed it as a trust.

To the Polish National Department of the United States, to the men, women and children of America, the Polish National Committee owes a great, great debt. Poland cannot contemplate the sacrifices made by the Polish immigration in the United States without gratitude, tears and mingled feelings of emotion and pride. There American sons, Poland's best, have acted up to their traditions. What they have done was to be expected of them, but not only is it what they have done, but the magnificent manner of the doing.

In the various speeches which I have made since my return to America, speaking in over two-score cities, and recently in the states of Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and others, both in Polish and English, you will find a thorough description of actual conditions found as existing in Poland; of the misery, starvation, and the destruction of life and property, and you will learn of the valuable work rendered by the United States authorities and the American Red Cross, and at the same time, of the indomitable spirit which prevails among the citizens of the Polish Republic and their inspirations, all of which makes it possible, assures and explains Poland's revival and quickening under the stimulus she has.

I remember well when the only Polish soldiers fighting under the banner of the White Eagle were the 23,000 men in France and they mostly composed of men who came from the United States and the few thousand who fought in the legions of Poland.

We now have organized and equipped an army of a million, which is able to take care of all internal and external enemies. As a member of the Polish National Committee, which I consider the greatest honor which has ever been conferred upon me or upon any man during the war for our independence, I can state with the greatest satisfaction and pride that if it had not been for the Polish National Committee, Poland would not occupy the position it occupies today, that it would not have been

able to organize the way it has, that it would not have had representation at the Peace Conference as it has. Were it not for the Polish National Committee, Poland would be in a position similar to Jugo-Slovakia and other people who are still in the aspiration stage. I have witnessed the rebirth of Poland, though amidst pain and desolation, and her proud standard is now floating over her own territory, one extending over 200,000 square miles and having a population of 38,000,000 of free citizens, who are destined to be deciding factors in the readjustment and security of civilization.

To make a thorough report of my activities from the day that I was notified by Hon. Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States, that the government had recognized me as the representative of the four and one-half millions of Polish immigration on the Polish National Committee at Paris, in February, 1918, until my return to the United States in June, 1919, the short time allotted to me would be most insufficient, but require many, many sessions and the presentation of facts and matter to fill volumes.

Of course, there are truths, which as Mickiewicz has said, may be cried out from the house tops that all may hear; then there are some truths which may only be told to a friend in confidence, and again there are truths which none can repeat or should repeat even to himself, but should be buried in his bosom and die with him. Many acts, incidents, occurrences of all kinds, of which I was a witness or in which I participated, whether as an officer of the United States Army or as a member of the Polish National Committee, or as a member of the American Red Cross Commission to Poland, are to appear in due time in print. Some will remain on file in the archives of the Polish National Committee at Paris and Warsaw, and the Polish National Department in Chicago; many will remain buried forever in my heart, for though a native-born American and a proud citizen of the United States, I love the country of my forefathers—Poland—as justly I should.

While a member of the Polish National Committee, I have met all kinds and classes of people, from the heads of governments—kings and presidents—from high gen-

crals of the Allied and Associated powers, down to the most humble caretakers and camp followers. I have seen life as it is seldom seen. I have lived centuries in less than a year and a half. I have taken part in the making of history. I have lived in the castles of the mighty, broke bread with those who were looked upon by millions and millions as their head and their leader, and I have gone hungry with the soldiers on the battle field and exposed myself to the same dangers they passed through. I have visited trenches, have smelt of poisonous gasses, have almost tasted even of the supreme sacrifice that a soldier may offer on the battle field. I have nothing to be sorry for. I am not ashamed of any of my acts. I have done the best that circumstances and conditions permitted, and when you consider that when I came to France there was hardly anything done for the welfare of the soldier, because there was neither opportunity nor time to prepare to organize anything before my arrival in France, I felt great satisfaction when I left as Director of the Department of Public Welfare, that our men were being taken care of, not only in France, but before they left France for Poland. I made arrangements with the Y. M. C. A. and other organizations for smokes and delicacies and for games and entertainment, and for men to go and who did go to Poland to aid our boys, and they are with them there today.

In Poland they have organized canteens and rest camps, and have supplied the soldiers with tobacco, dainties and sweets, and have made their lives worth living while away from the battle front or on military duty.

I hope that this somewhat rambling report will give an idea of the work accomplished by me while acting as your representative from the time I became a member of the Polish National Committee in February, 1918, to my return to the United States in June, 1919.

A special pamphlet of about 50 pages of print, entitled "Poland in the World War from Medical Aspect," is now in the hands of the medical press and describes fully the sanitary conditions existing in Poland.

Another pamphlet of about 150 pages is about to be printed in New York City, and I hope it will be interesting to the readers. It is entitled, "The Polish Na-

tion, a Review and a Prophecy," and it describes more fully some of the subjects which I have discussed before you today.

In addition to this report, more can be found in reports made by me to the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, General John Pershing, and which are now in the War Department at Washington, and in the American Red Cross headquarters in Washington, Paris and Warsaw, with the Polish National Committee at Paris, with the Polish government in Warsaw and the Polish National Department in Chicago—thither I have sent messages, letters, reports and booklets so they may in part, at least, form a few pages in the history of the World's War and of struggling and victorious and reborn Poland.

FRANCIS E. FRONCZAK.



WANT THE PRINTER